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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

23 AUGUST 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

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SPECIAL ITEM

Early today, the third anniversary of the large-scale Communist shelling of the Kinmen group, [redacted] artillery crews on the mainland opposite the island had removed gun covers and had moved some batteries into firing positions. No firing had been reported up to 0830 EDT this morning. [redacted]

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A sequence of developments during the past week had suggested that Communist Chinese military forces may have been placed on an alert status, particularly in the Taiwan Strait area. These developments included:

- (1) the establishment of listening watches on the radio nets of senior ground force commands;
- (2) an increase in the number of fighter pilots kept on the alert at various airfields;
- (3) high levels of activity among East China Fleet units; and
- (4) a concentration of naval auxiliary units in the Wenchow area.

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[redacted] it is believed that some of the Chinese Communist Activity could stem from anticipation of Nationalist operations. At the same time, the possibility of aggressive Communist action exists, and the Chinese Communists have the capability of initiating air, naval, artillery and minor amphibious operations against the Nationalists with little or no further warning. [redacted]

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1. Moscow pressing for early Laos agreement

In recent days [redacted]

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[redacted] Soviet

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diplomats have been working overtime to convince Western officials that an early solution can be reached. The core of the Soviet argument, being expressed in unusually affable terms, is: of the many East-West trouble spots--Bizerte, the Congo, Cuba, Algeria and Laos--the latter is the easiest to solve. If a Souvanna-led government is set up the situation in Laos will fall into place and tensions elsewhere might be eased as well.

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2. Berlin

The East German regime seems to feel that the first danger of a popular eruption has passed. Provincial leaders have now been ordered to report once daily, instead of at six-hour intervals, on the state of morale. Reports of grumbling and discontent persist, however. No significant change in the deployment of Soviet or East German military forces in and around Berlin has been reported.

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3. Dominican President losing ground

Balaguer has indicated to our Consul that he may have to resign because of growing pressures from the military who are determined to halt his cautious liberalizing policy. At least two opposition leaders were killed last Sunday in clashes with the military and police. There was another encounter Monday. Ramfis Trujillo, who fears loss of his control of the military forces, is apparently wavering in his support of Balaguer.

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4. Gizenga claims Adoula Concession

His conditions for participation in the government, were:

- a) control of the defense ministry, and
- b) the acceptance by Leopoldville of the foreign diplomats now accredited to Stanleyville. He is insisting on written confirmation of these terms before going to Leopoldville. Adoula, however, appears not to have made any binding commitments as yet, and his foreign minister says flatly that the defense ministry will not be given to a Gizenga supporter.

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NOTES

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B. Violence has recurred in the Bolivian troublespot of Santa Cruz between followers of the local political chieftain and the forces of President Paz. High ranking Bolivian army men, increasingly dubious of Paz' effectiveness, are beginning to make military junta plans.

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C. The four Soviet Missile instrumentation ships are on a southeasterly course south of Midway. They are expected to reach their destination about Friday. An extended range ICBM test seems likely, but a space shot is not entirely out of the question.

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D. On the heels of his victory in Monday's election (20 out of 35 legislative seats), Jagan is expected to demand immediate independence and to embark on an aid-seeking world tour.

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E. Our Embassy in Paris observes that De Gaulle is risking military opposition by his decision to strengthen French continental forces, but may find it a convenient means to thin out army in Algeria and focus attention elsewhere.

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